

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2231

INFO USLO PEKING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4151

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: US BICENTENNIAL

REF: A) STATE 139668; B) TAIPEI 4089

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: POLCOUNS MADE REPRESENTATION REQUESTED
REF A. REPLYING, MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR KUAN
SAID USG DECISION "CANNOT AND SHALL NEVER HAVE GROC UNDER-
STANDING.

" KUAN POINTED OUT IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S NOTE
OF NOVEMBER 1971 INVITING ROC PARTICIPATION IN NAME OF SEC-
RETARY OF STATE, GOVERNMENT HAD SET UP CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE
TO COORDINATE ROC PARTICIPATION. GROC OBVIOUSLY MOST UNHAPPY
WITH DECISION, CONFUSED BY SOME OF ITS IMPLICATIONS, AND LIKELY
TO PURSUE MATTER FURTHER. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT INSTRUCTIONS REF A, POLCOUNS CALLED ON
AMBASSADOR KUAN, MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ON
JULY 1. HE NOTED INVITATION EXTENDED BY AMBASSADOR
MCCONAUGHY JULY 4, 1973 (REF B) WAS TENDERED PURSUANT
TO A GENERAL DIPLOMATIC CIRCULAR AND, UNFORTUNATELY, AT
THAT TIME THE IMPLICATIONS OF SIMULTANEOUS PRESENCE OF
PRCLO AND ROC EMBASSY APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN CONSIDERED.
IT NOW SEEMS APPARENT THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF
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POLICIAL CONFRONTATION AND EMBARRASSMENT WHICH WHICH WOULD MAR

AN IMPORTANT US NATIONAL CELEBRATION. USG DID NOT WANT TO HAVE SUCH INCIDENTS TAKE PLACE DURING BICENTENNIAL. ACCORDINGLY, US HAS DECIDED NEITHER PRC NOR ROC WILL RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS HOSTED BY USG OR BY QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL BICENTENNIAL INSTITUTIONS. ONLY EXCEPTION WOULD BE FUNCTIONS TO WHICH DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS INVITED, IN WHICH CASE ROC EMBASSY PERSONNEL WOULD BE INVITED AND PRCLO PERSONNEL WOULD NOT. DECISION DOES NOT APPLY TO PRIVATELY SPONSORED OR TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EVENTS WHICH USG DOES NOT CONTROL.

3. IN REPLY AMBASSADOR KUAN STATED THAT USG DECISION "CANNOT AND SHALL NEVER HAVE ROC UNDERSTANDING". HE POINTED OUT ROC EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD RECEIVED NOTE FROM DEPARTMENT IN NOVEMBER 1971 IN WHICH SECRETARY OF STATE INVITED ROC PARTICIPATION. BASED ON THIS INVITATION, AS WELL AS AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY'S JULY 4, 1973 INVITATION, GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY FORMER FONMIN S. K. CHOW TO COORDINATE ROC PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL. US BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, MOREOVER, HAD INQUIRED OF ROC EMBASSY AND HAD BEEN TOLD ROC PLANNED TO PARTICIPATE FULLY. KUAN STATED PRESENT USG DECISION, SINGLING OUT ROC FROM ALL OTHER NATIONS WITH WHICH US HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, IS HIGHLY INVIDIOUS AND COULD NOT BE EXPLAINED TO EITHER ROC PUBLIC OR TO OTHER COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT ON FEBRUARY 21, 1973 SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD ASSURED AMBASSADOR SHEN THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF PRCLO WOULD NOT AFFECT ABILITY OF ROC EMBASSY TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OFFICIAL USG FUNCTIONS. GROC BELIEVES USG WORRIES ABOUT "UNLIKELY AND HYPOTHETICAL" INCIDENTS DO NOT JUSTIFY WITHDRAWAL OR INVITATIONS OR ASSURANCES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN RE FULL DIPLOMATIC TREATMENT. IN CONCLUSION, KUAN MENTIONED ROC HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED INVITATION FROM CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO PARTICIPATE IN A BICENTENNIAL FAIR AND HE WONDERED WHETHER LOCAL OR STATE EVENTS ENDORSED BY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION THEREBY ACQUIRED OFFICIAL USG AURA (I.E., PRECLUDING GROC PARTICIPATION.)

4. COMMENT: TO PUT IT MILDLY, GROC IS HIGHLY PERTURBED. WITHDRAWAL OF TWO OFFICIAL TENDERED INVITATIONS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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SEEN NOT ONLY AS GRAVE DISCOURTESY BUT ALSO AS TREATING ROC AS SOMETHING LESS THAN FULLY SOVEREIGN ENTITY. ALTHOUGH POLCOUNS SEVERAL TIMES REITERATED THAT ROC EMBASSY WOULD BE INVITED TO FUNCTIONS ARRANGED FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT MOFA IS CONCERNED THAT THIS IS BEGINNING OF SECOND CLASS TREATMENT FOR IS DIP-

LOMATIC PERSONNEL IN US.

5. WE EXPECT GROG WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS MATTERS IN
WASHINGTON AND MAY WELL SEEK TO ENGAGE ITS SUPPORTERS IN
CONGRESS. ADDITIONAL COMMENT SEPTTEL.
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